

REMARKS

The Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection.

Claims 31-42 are pending.

A new title of the invention has been provided as required by the Examiner.

Claims 31-42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Respectfully, the Applicants submit that claims 31 and 40 fully satisfy the first paragraph of §112. Referring to claim 31, the Examiner states that the limitation "wherein a first semiconductor region forming said drain of first P type MISFET is more than half surrounded by a first layer forming said gate of said first P type MISFET" is not described in the specification. In reply, the Applicants refer the Examiner to Figure 3A, which shows sense amplifier SAP which indicates a PMOS transistor section of a cross-coupled type amplifier SA. As shown in the attached annotated enlargement of Figure 3A, one sees that the drain area (drain1 or drain2) is more than half surrounded by a first layer forming the gate (Gate 1 or Gate 2) of the transistor.

Furthermore, the Examiner rejects claim 40, asserting that the limitation "wherein semiconductor regions each

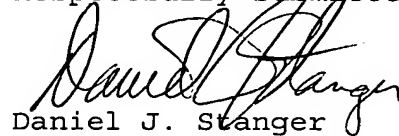
forming said drains of said first and second P type MISFETs are each surrounded on three sides of a rectangle by the gates of said first and second P type MISFETs, respectively, and wherein semiconductor regions each forming said drains of said first and second N type MISFETs are each surrounded on three sides of a rectangle by the gates of said first and second N type MISFETs, respectively" is not described in the specification. Again turning to the attached enlargement of Figure 3A, the drains drain1 and drain2 correspond to the claimed drains of the first and second P type MISFETs. The enlargement does not show sense amplifier SAN, which is also present in Figure 3A, and which contains similar structure showing drains of first and second N type MISFETs, each surrounded on three sides of a rectangle by the gates of the transistors.

The specification describes Figure 3A on page 19, lines 1-11. Note that, although SAP and SAN are described substantially by reference to the figure, the person of ordinary skill well understands the claimed structure, by reference to the figure and associated description. If the Examiner would prefer the express language of the claims to be present in the specification, the Applicants believe that an Examiner's Amendment can be made without introducing new

matter, based upon the existing drawing and description. In any event, the Applicants submit that all claims are in full satisfaction of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112, based on the drawing, description, and knowledge of the person of ordinary skill in the art.

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Daniel J. Stanger", is written over the typed name.

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